

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.
Currently, claims 1-21 are pending in this application.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Porter et al (U.S. '023, hereinafter "Porter"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

For a reference to anticipate a claim, each element must be found, either expressly or under principles of inherency, in the reference. Porter fails to disclose each element of the claimed invention. For example, Porter fails to disclose resource locators of respective subsystems each being arranged to communicate signalling directly with each other.

The above feature is supported by, for example, page 1, line 32 to page 2, line 9 of the originally-filed specification. Since each resource locator of a subsystem is capable of directly communicating with resource locators of other subsystems, communication with a centralized network resource manager such as centralized network resource manager 16 disclosed by Porter can be avoided. Each resource locator is thus capable of independently obtaining necessary additional resources to complete service requests rather than having to call on a centralized network resource manager (again, such as the centralized network resource manager 16 disclosed by Porter) to reconfigure the network.

Col. 3, lines 50-61 of Porter states the following:

“Every resource manager has a domain, which is the set of resources managed by the resource manager. The domain of a nodal resource manager is the set of resources available to a network node, as the network is currently configured. The system of the present invention may include a network resource manager, whose domain is all connective resources of the network. The network resource manager can reconfigure the network and allocate additional network resources to a nodal resource manager. In the event a nodal resource manager cannot satisfy a resource request, the nodal resource manager may request additional resources from the network resource manager.”

Col. 4, lines 46-50 of Porter states the following:

“Node 13 includes a nodal resource manager 23. Nodal resource manager 23 serves as the only gate keeper to all of the resources belonging to its particular domain. The domain of nodal resource manager 23 is determined by the configuration of network 11.”

The above portions of Porter disclose that the only access to resources on each node is via the nodal resource manager 23. If additional resources are required to complete a service request, these additional resources are provided by contacting the central network resource manager 16. Indeed, col. 4, lines 22-24 of Porter states “Network 11 also includes a network resource manager 16 that can reconfigure network 11 and allocate additional resource to the domain of each node 13....” However, it is this very feature (requiring each nodal resource locator to have to contact a central network resource manager to, for example, obtain additional resources) that the present invention seeks to eliminate.

In Porter, only the network resource manager 16 can reconfigure the network and allocate additional resources to a nodal resource managers 23, and the nodal

resource manager 23 must request additional resources from the network resource manager 16. The network resource manager 16 of Porter will therefore suffer a disadvantage when a network is expanded as it will experience an increase in overhead communications with the nodal resource managers as the number of nodal resource managers is increased. In contrast, the present invention removes any need for a centralized network resource manager such as described in Porter.

The network resource manager 16 in Porter is not located on a node 13. While universal directory function 21 is located on a node, the universal directory function 21 only describes functionality within the nodal domain, and therefore cannot by definition be extended to include functionality provided within other nodal domains.

The Office Action makes repeated reference to col. 3, lines 30-40 of Porter. (See the last paragraph of page 2 and the first paragraph of page 3 of the Office Action). Col. 3, lines 30-40 of Porter state the following:

“A resource request also includes an evaluation function. The resource manager uses the evaluation function to evaluate the attributes of the set of candidate resources to determine a best candidate resource. The resource manager sorts or ranks the candidate resources according to the evaluation function. The resource manager allocates the best candidate resource to the requesting service processing function and indicates the identity and priority of the requesting service processing function. The resource manager then configures the best candidate in preparation for fulfilling the request.”

Col. 5, lines 55-62 provides additional detail on the passage described in col. 3, lines 30-40. These portions of Porter merely describe a nodal resource manager 23 sorting or ranking candidate resources according to an evaluation function included

with a resource request. These portions of Porter do not disclose or even suggest providing in each nodal domain a resource locator capable of signaling other resource locators directly (rather than requiring each nodal resource locator to communicate via a remotely located network resource manager).

Fig. 1 illustrates a plurality of nodes 13 interconnected by links 15. Network services, such as the completion of telephone calls, are provided by switching traffic between nodes 13 over selected links 15. Accordingly, Porter's teaching of links 15 interconnecting nodes 13 for providing network services such as completing telephone calls does not teach or suggest resource locators of respective subsystems each being arranged to communicate signaling directly with each other. Such an erroneous interpretation would involve completely ignoring Porter's explicit teaching of network resource manager 16.

With respect to dependent claim 2, the Office Action alleges that col. 2, lines 56-67 discloses peer-to-peer signaling. Col. 2, lines 56-67 of Porter states the following:

"The present invention provides a method of and a system for providing services in a communications network. The system includes a service processing function, a universal directory function, and a resource manager. The service processing function receives service requests, formulates requests for interworking functions based upon service requests, and formulates resource requests based upon service requests and interworking functions. The universal directory function receives logical addresses from the service processing function and returns interworking functions based upon addresses. The resource manager receives resource requests and allocates resources to the service processing function in response to resource requests. The resource manager accesses and updates a resource database that includes an entry

BEDDUS et al.
Application No. 09/787,198
August 5, 2005

corresponding to each network resource managed by the resource manager.”

Applicant submits that no portion of the above passage discloses peer-to-peer signaling between resource locators. If the next Office Action maintains the rejection of claim 2, Applicant respectfully requests clarification of how the above passage discloses the subject matter of claim 2.

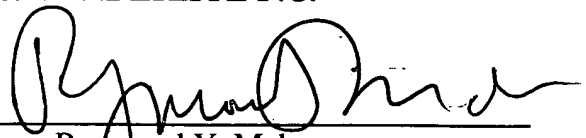
Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-21 are not anticipated by Porter and respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 be withdrawn.

Conclusion:

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 
Raymond Y. Mah
Reg No. 41,426

RYM:sl
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4044
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100